

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

JANUARY 24, 2006

Over the past few years, we have seen a tremendous influx in the number of “sober-living” homes locating within residential communities throughout Los Angeles County. While many, if not most, appear to be operating within the parameters of State and local regulations, there is a disturbing increase in the incidence of abuse of sober-living residents, not only in the areas of actual care and lodging, but also in the areas of so-called client “recruitment.”

Community residents and the Lennox School District have brought to the County’s attention an example of this problem wherein an apartment building is being used to house a large number of what appear to be mostly mentally-ill men and women housed in sub-standard living conditions with allegations of physical abuse on the part of facility staff. Located adjacent to an elementary school, a middle school and a State preschool, these unsupervised individuals are venturing out into the school yard, are often seen sitting on school benches, harassing and threatening children

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

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and approaching teachers asking them for money.

While the following departments are conducting an ongoing investigation into this particular facility:

- Community Care Licensing - State of CA
- Adult Protective Services - (Community and Senior Services)
- LA County Department of Mental Health
- Department of Public Health (Health Services)
- Regional Planning
- Sheriff's Department

We need to examine these kinds of incidents and ensure that the affected departments are empowered with the appropriate policing authority to regulate, close down and remove and re-locate individuals who are being abused and unable to care for themselves.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that this Board instruct the departments listed above to report back on:

1. The status of the investigation of the facility mentioned above, including any discussions with the District Attorney, and other facilities operated by the owner and/or their family or associates;
2. A review of all sober-living applications pending before the county;
3. The increasing incidence of regulatory issues and problems with sober-living facilities in Los Angeles County;

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4. An inventory of the existing remedies available to the respective departments and agencies encountering the incidence of abuse and unlawful activities;
and
5. Recommendations from the departments and agencies of what is needed further to prevent the escalation of abuse at these types of facilities.

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(YBB:MSB:ec Sober Living Homes 011706)